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Forest offences.

* 929 *Q.*—SRI K. KRISHNA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state with reference to the two types of cases mentioned in the Administration of the Forest Department, i.e., of cases taken to courts in paragraph 32 and new cases mentioned in paragraph 34 of the Administration Report for 1951—

(*a*) whether the figures of cases in paragraph 34 include cases taken to Court or whether they relate only to cases compounded by Forest officials without any reference to any court of law ;

(*b*) why, when the figure for cases taken to court was 18,592 (paragraph 33) and cases compounded numbered 42,319 (paragraph 35) as per the Administration Report for Forests for 1950, and the ratio of the two figures does not exhibit wide variation from 1946 to 1950, the corresponding figures for 1951 are 16,505 and 53,150 in 1951 respectively; and

(*c*) the corresponding figures as in (*b*) for the year ending 31st March 1952 and for the year ending 31st March 1953?

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" (*a*) The figures of cases mentioned in paragraph 34 of the Administration Report of the Forest Department for 1951 are the total number of cases which include the cases taken to court and cases compounded by Forest officials.

" (*b*) The cases numbering 42,319 are the total number of cases which include the cases compounded and the cases taken to court and not cases compounded only. The cases are generally compounded by Forest officers and only where parties are not willing to pay the compounding fees, they are taken to courts. The ratio of the figures therefore depends on the attitude of the persons apprehended.

" (*c*) For the year ending 31st March 1952, the corresponding figures are 20,644 and 49,826 respectively. Figures for the year ending 31st March 1953 are not ready."

SRI K. KRISHNA RAO :—" Are any steps being taken by Government or instructions have been given to have these cases compounded and not take them to a court of law? "

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" It all depends upon the nature of the cases, Sir. It is left to the District Forest Officer to decide the matter. If any material had been seized or if he thinks it fit to take the case to a court of law, then the case goes to the Magistrate."

SRI R. SIDDANNA GOWD :—"Sir, are the cases of illicit cutting of trees and the illicit grazing by animals differently classified? "

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" I would like to have notice for this question."

SRI T. LAKSHMINARAYANA REDDI :—" Are the Government aware of the fact that various Forest officials are booking

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cases even though the wood is found outside the forest reserve, or in the houses of the ryots? Will the Government take immediate steps to prevent such abuse at least hereafter and see to it that the officials are properly instructed?"

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" Wherever and whenever such cases are brought to the notice of Government, proper action will be taken."

Sales tax and licence fees for dealing in handspun yarn in Guntur.

* 930 Q.—SRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH : Will the Hon. the Minister for Rural Welfare be pleased to state whether illegal collection of sales tax and licence fees for dealing in handspun yarn has been made by the Commercial Tax authorities in Guntur district; whether any representation has been received by the Government in that behalf and the action taken thereon by the Government?

THE HON. SRI S. B. P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO :—" No."

SRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH :—" Is it not a fact that in Guntur district the Commercial Tax Officers illegally collected sales tax from small dealers dealing in handspun yarn, when it was specifically announced previously that hnadspun yarn would be exempted from Sales Tax levy?"

THE HON. SRI S. B. P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO :—" No, Sir, handspun yarn had always been exempted from sales tax levy."

House Surgeons attached to Coimbatore Headquarters Hospital.

* 931 Q.—SRI N. K. PALANISWAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) for how many years a House Surgeon can serve in a particular Headquarters Hospital;

(b) how many House Surgeons are remaining in Coimbatore Government Hospital for more than that period; and

(c) why they are retained even after the specific period?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) Each House Surgeon or House Physician shall ordinarily hold office for a period of one year but may be continued beyond the period so long as there are no new applicants for the posts. Candidates who have already completed one year's house surgeoncy may be appointed as paid House Surgeons or House Physicians if there are vacancies subject to the condition that preference is given to fresh candidates who have not done house surgeoncy or who have not held previously paid posts of House Surgeons or House Physicians.

" (b) Four.

" (c) Because fresh graduates are not available to fill up all the posts."